

EC puts on hold some Israel ties

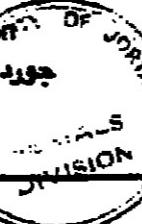
BRUSSELS (AP) — The European Community (EC) Friday froze some aspects of its relations with Israel citing police violence at a December peace march in Jerusalem, the situation in the occupied territories and the impasse in the Mideast peace process. Abel Matutes, the EC Commissioner for Mediterranean affairs, has postponed a mid-March visit to Israel, the EC Executive Commission said. Also postponed are a seminar in Israel in March on the EC single market and an EC-Israel scientific cooperation meeting in April, it added.

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Lebanon panel presses for summit

ABU DHABI (AP) — Algeria's foreign minister, Ahmed Ghosn, pressed Friday for support for an emergency Arab summit to support the elected Lebanese government. Minister Ahmed Ghosn, whose country is a member of the three-member panel working for a Lebanon settlement on behalf of the Arab League, was quoted by the official Emirates news agency WAM as saying the panel had presented a report on Lebanon urging Arab leaders to meet in an emergency session. Asked whether he expected the summit this month as has been reported, Ghosn said, "this depends on the answers of Arab leaders to the committee's report," adding "we are awaiting reaction from the Arab leaders." The panel, grouping Algeria, Saudi Arabia and Morocco, found it useful to present a report on the committee's achievements and make proposals to implement the remaining points of the Taif agreement, he said.

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

Youth form union

AMMAN (I.T.) — A total of 150 to 200 youth representing various unions and social delegations in the Kingdom held a meeting in Amman Friday and formed a 15-member "follow-up committee" to prepare for the founding conference of the "Jordanian Democratic Youth Union" on March 16. According to Al Ra'i, the follow-up committee will "prepare drafts, documents and platform of the internal regulations so as to present them to the Ministry of Youth in order to get recognition and license to operate publicly. The committee will furthermore contact all Jordanian youth institutions to expand the basis of popular participation. The conference called for reactivating all youth "to formulate the democratic stage which concerns all citizens." They also called for opening membership to all democratic youth.

Sayeh submits appeal to Soviets

AMMAN (Petra) — Palestinian National Council (PNC) Speaker Sheikh Abdul Hameed Sayeh has expressed hope that the Soviet leadership would rescind or freeze the decision related to immigration of Soviet Jews to Palestine so long as the Arab-Israeli conflict has not been settled. "Any insistence that the Soviet decision to allow Jewish immigration to Palestine will remain now be a fact unsatisfactory on the Arab side in Soviet relations," Sayeh said Thursday while delivering a memorandum to the Soviet ambassador to Amman on behalf of the Bait Al Maqdes general secretariat. "Jews as a belief is immigration to Jerusalem and would denounce the Palestinian cause, the intifada, and even fight in it if the fate of the Palestinian people at a time when a number of first arrivals (of immigrants) has joined the Israeli army," Sayeh said.

Soviet leader vows more reforms

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev proposed Friday that the United States and the Soviet Union cut their troop strength in Europe to 195,000 each, excluding Soviet territory, the Soviet news agency TASS reported.

Gorbachev's proposal, made at talks with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, accepted figures offered by President George Bush last month but apparently rejected the idea that an extra 30,000 U.S. troops could be stationed outside Central Europe.

Bush proposed last month that each superpower should retain 195,000 men in Central Europe but that the United States could keep another 30,000 in Britain, Italy, Greece and Turkey without a matching Soviet deployment.

Bush made his proposal Thursday at the Vienna talks between NATO and the Warsaw Pact on reducing non-nuclear forces in Europe.

TASS quoted Gorbachev as saying that if the 195,000 figure was unacceptable, the Soviet Union proposed a ceiling of 225,000 troops each in Europe, excluding Soviet territory.

Gorbachev's proposal is proceeding very well."

Teenager shot dead after shooting at Mubarak residence

CAIRO (Agencies) — An armed teenager was shot dead when he crashed his car into President Hosni Mubarak's official residence Friday and wounded two security guards, the Egyptian interior ministry said.

The ministry statement, carried by the Middle East News Agency, said 17-year-old Adel Ibrahim Mohammed Hafez, 17, security guard at the palace and fired a pistol injuring two guards.

"They were forced to return the fire, killing him instantly," the statement said.

It was the first such attempted attack since Muslim fundamentalists killed President Anwar Sadat at a military parade in October 1981.

Mubarak is currently in the southern Egyptian town of Aswan where he is due to inaugurate a fund-raising ceremony Monday for the resurrection of the ancient Library of Alexandria.

A traffic policeman on duty at Mubarak's house in the fashionable Helipolis district earlier said unidentified gunmen shot at the residence from a speeding car.

"Guards and the young man was in an abnormal state and appeared to lose his balance while shooting at the guards," the ministry stated.

"He threatened to cause a catastrophe if his demands were not met," it quoted her as saying.

Details of his demands were not given.

MENA meanwhile said Mubarak initiated a telephone call from Aswan to Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi.

The two leaders discussed some issues of mutual interests, the agency said without elaboration.

According to the traffic policeman quoted by Reuters, "we heard firing, four or five rounds."

"We were told it was unidentified people in a car who shot at the palace, apparently, they got away," he added.

He said police were immediately told to divert traffic and to seal the main road leading to the residence.

Several checkpoints manned by police armed with machine-guns were set up.

Presidential guards declassified comment and told reporters who drove to the area to leave immediately.

Hafez's mother said her son was furious when he left the house after a family quarrel, the agency reported.

"He threatened to cause a catastrophe if his demands were not met," it quoted her as saying.

Details of his demands were not given.

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Middle East News

JORDAN TIMES, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1990

Workers believe warning signs ignored

66 workers perish in Turkish mine disaster

MERZIFON, Turkey (R) — Turkish coal miners said they believed warning signs were ignored before an explosion and fired through an underground chamber, killing 66 of their colleagues.

"On the day of the explosion there was excessive heat in the mine. We also had a tip-off that there was excessive gas," Osman Soyu, whose shift ended only hours before Wednesday's blast, said late Thursday.

Officials at northern Turkey's Yeniceltepe Legume Mine said fire was still raging in a chamber 350 metres below the surface where 58 miners were entombed.

"The compartment is closed and no air is going in or out. The area of the explosion is 60 metres by 150 metres," Celalettin Cakir, general manager of the mine, told Reuters.

Cakir said it could take up to six months to reopen the mine near the Black Sea mountain town of Merzifon following the

blast which he believed was caused by a methane build up.

"The prosecutor will determine the guilty. He is interrogate engineers and other senior technical people," he said.

Officials said 10 miners had been dragged to the surface throughout the mine's main shaft but that all but two were dead.

It was the worst pit disaster in Turkey since 1983 when an explosion killed at least 100 miners in the main coal mining area of Zonguldak, west of Merzifon.

Trade union leaders and workers have been sharply critical of the latest accident, with Sevket Yilmaz, head of the main Turk-Is workers' confederation, describing it as "murder".

It was the third reported death blast at the mine which opened in 1955. Sixty-seven miners were killed in a similar explosion in 1965 and 14 died in the pit in 1959.

Prime Minister Yildirim Akbulut and Labour Minister Izzetullah Independent newspaper and Newsweek magazine, Rushdie

Aykut visited Yeniceltepe Thursday and President Turgut Ozal pledged help for the families of the bereaved.

Turk-Is urged miners Friday to boycott work at all mines to protest the coal pit disaster.

"We propose to the two (major) mining unions that they stop production to protest the lack of job safety measures in the sector which makes mass murders of accidents," said the statement by the Turk-Is confederation with over 1.5 million members.

The Turk-Is statement called on the government to bring out the bodies at whatever cost even if it meant ending all mining.

The Turk-Is statement said it would support the unions to implement the boycott if they accepted the proposal.

The Turkiye Maden-Is Union which represents the Yeniceltepe miners and Genel Maden-Is Union together group some 110,000 of Turkey's 140,000 mine workers.

Prague renews ties with Israel

PRAGUE (R) — Czechoslovakia's new reformist government formally resumed full diplomatic relations with Israel Friday, opening a new era of friendship after a 23-year rift.

Foreign Ministers Moshe Arens of Israel and Jiri Dienstbier of Czechoslovakia signed the accord at a ceremony in Prague's Cernin Palace witnessed by journalists.

Czechoslovakia follows Hungary in reversing a Soviet-led decision to break with Israel over the 1967 Middle East war. Hungary restored ties last September.

The rapprochement, after an unprecedented exchange of delegations between Prague and Tel Aviv, took place barely two months after Czechoslovakia's hardline Communists surrendered their grip on power.

New President Vaclav Havel wants Prague's new friendliness to Israel to forge a role for Czechoslovakia in the Middle East peace process.

He has stressed the new era of warmth would not harm Czechoslovakia's traditionally friendly re-

lations with Arab states or its support for Palestinian rights to self-determination.

The two foreign ministers also signed an agreement on cultural, educational and scientific cooperation.

A spokesman at the Czechoslovak Foreign Ministry also predicted flourishing economic links between the two countries. In the past few years of Communist rule, trade languished at a few million dollars a year.

E. Germany admits World War II responsibility

In a separate development, East Germany Thursday accepted a share of responsibility for the holocaust and said it would provide "material support" to Jewish victims, the World Jewish Congress (WJC) said in New York.

In a letter to the WJC in New York, Prime Minister Hans Modrow said East Germany recognises its duty "with regard to the survivors of the Jewish people who suffered under Nazi oppres-

sion."

It also said East Germany "confirms its readiness in a spirit of human solidarity to provide material support to former (victims) of the Nazi regime of Jewish origin."

In 1951, West Germany accepted its responsibility for the holocaust, in which nearly six million Jews were killed from 1933 to 1945. It has since paid billions of dollars in reparations to Israel, Jewish organisations and individual Jewish claimants.

East Germany, however, rejected a similar response, saying it was formed in 1949 and therefore did not bear any responsibility for the holocaust.

In East Berlin, the East German news agency (ADN) released the full text of Modrow's statement and said a copy had been sent to the Israeli government as well as the WJC.

Restating East Berlin's position on reparations, Modrow noted in the statement that East Germany had fulfilled all its obligations under the post-World War II accords.

Nathan accused Israel of hypocrisy over the law, saying the government was holding indirect peace talks with the PLO.

Abie Nathan freed from jail

KFAR SABA, Israel (R) — Israeli peace campaigner Abie Nathan was freed from prison Friday saying he was more determined than ever to talk to Arab leaders and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Nathan, a popular radio broad-

caster, served four months for breaking a 1986 law barring contacts with what Israel brands "terrorist" groups, including the PLO. He met PLO leader Yasser Arafat in Tunis in 1988.

"I am more determined than before. No fences will close me down," he told reporters outside Eyal Prison north of Tel Aviv.

In interviews with the British Independent newspaper and Newsweek magazine, Rushdie

Independent children handed him flowers and olive branches as he spoke to journalists and supporters, including at least one parliamentarian, in a downtime outside the prison.

Nathan, the fifth Israeli convicted of breaking the anti-terrorism law, was originally jailed for six months but prison authorities reduced the sentence for good behaviour.

During his term at the minimum security prison, Nathan was allowed visitors and a number of short leaves.

Born in Iran and raised in India before immigrating to Israel, Nathan flew two celebrated peace missions to Egypt in a private plane in 1966 and 1967.

He said he would continue his campaign to have the anti-terrorism law repealed because he considered it an obstacle to peace.

"How can it be that throughout the world people talk and we don't? All enemies around the world talk, while we are the only ones who still have not overcome this, and there won't be any path to a solution," he told Israel Army Radio.

Nathan accused Israel of hypocrisy over the law, saying the government was holding indirect peace talks with the PLO.

Rushdie, Levy and Modai will demand Israel put an end to a

Khamenei upholds Rushdie's death sentence

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran's spiritual leader said Friday that the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's order calling for the death of author Salman Rushdie must be carried out, Tehran Radio reported.

The broadcast, monitored in Nicosia, quoted Ayatollah Ali Khamenei as saying in a sermon Friday that Khomeini's fatwa, or religious decree, "about the writer of the blasphemous book, the Satanic Verses is still valid and must be implemented."

In a related development, nine Iranians deported from Britain arrived in Tehran Friday.

The Indian-born Britain author, in hiding since Khomeini issued the decree in 1989, was released from prison and several Iranian leaders put a \$5.2 million bounty on Rushdie's head.

Britain announced on Feb. 1 that the nine had to be out within a week for reasons of national security. It did not elaborate, but similar expulsions in the past have been linked to the Rushdie decree.

Khamenei said that he was informed by the British Home Office last week that he had to leave due to his contacts with organisations that support Iran.

In Tehran Friday, an Iranian television journalist deported along with an Iran Air official and seven students, said in a radio

interview that it was no coincidence that the expulsions came near the anniversary of Khomeini's death decree.

Muslim fundamentalists, who consider the book blasphemous for its irreverent treatment of the Prophet Muhammad reacted violently to the book after its publication in 1988.

But the controversy snowballed after Khomeini issued the death decree and several Iranian leaders put a \$5.2 million bounty on Rushdie's head.

Muslim leaders in Britain have rejected Rushdie's olive-branch, and condemned his determination to push ahead for publication of a paperback edition.

In his essay defending free speech and calling on moderate Muslims to read the book, Rushdie wrote that "I recognise that many Muslims have been felt shocked and pained too. Perhaps a way forward might be found through the mutual recognition of that mutual pain. Let us attempt to believe in each other's faith."

MIDDLE EAST NEWS BRIEFS

Algiers shaken by 2nd earth tremor

ALGIERS (R) — The city of Algiers and surrounding areas were shaken by an earth tremor Friday but no damage was reported, the Algerian News Agency (APS) said. The tremor registered 4.8.

They will also insist that Arabs from Israeli-annexed East Jerusalem and deportees be excluded from proposed talks in Cairo on the open-ended Richter Scale — powerful enough to cause damage in populated areas. It was felt in Algiers, Blida and Tipaza at 0931 GMT, the agency said. It was the second tremor since Feb. 5 when the Algiers area was shaken by a quake registering 4.1 on the Richter Scale. It coincided with a conference held in Tipaza, 60 kilometres west of Algiers, devoted to seismic risks. An earthquake last October in the same area killed 30 people and caused extensive damage.

Alexander's library to rise from ashes

ASWAN, Egypt (R) — Debt-burdened Egypt, anxious to recapture some of its past glory, this weekend appeals to the outside world for help in resurrecting the biggest library of the ancient world, destroyed by fire more than 2,000 years ago. How to raise \$160 million to pay for the Alexandria Library is a question. Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak will put to an international conference in this Nile-side town. Personalities and leaders including French President Francois Mitterrand, Princess Caroline of Monaco and Sheikh Zaid Ibn Sultan Al Nahyan of the United Arab Emirates are expected to join Mubarak. They are to discuss fund-raising for a new library near the original site in Alexandria built by Alexander the Great in 322 B.C. The Alexandria Library was the biggest in the ancient world, drawing in scholars from around the Mediterranean to consult its manuscripts and papyrus scrolls. The pre-Christian, pre-Islamic library accumulated on one site the world's biggest collection of knowledge on astrology, mathematics, medicine and philosophy. A fire destroyed much of the library in 48 B.C. as Julius Caesar's legions sacked Alexandria.

Ethiopia, rebels agree on talks

ADDIS ABABA (R) — Ethiopia said Friday it had agreed to hold preliminary peace talks in Sanaa with a minor rebel group, fighting for independence in the northern province of Eritrea. Deputy Prime Minister Ashagre Yigrem was quoted by the Ethiopian news agency (ENA) as saying he had held talks with government officials in North Yemen this week on the planned talks with the Eritrean Liberation Front (ELF). He said Ethiopia was prepared to start the talks in Sanaa by the middle of this month but an exact date would not be set until North Yemen had spoken to both sides. The ELF launched the struggle for independence in Eritrea, a former Italian colony on the Red Sea coast, in 1961. In 1970 it split into the ELF and the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF), now the major rebels force in Eritrea. The government has already begun talks with the EPLF.

Khamenei pardons 178 prisoners

NICOSIA (R) — Iranian leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei granted amnesty to 178 prisoners to mark the 11th anniversary of the Islamic Revolution, the official news agency reported Friday. The Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA), monitored in Nicosia, said the prisoners came from 22 cities throughout Iran. "They were serving prison terms upon verdicts of public or Islamic revolutionary courts," said IRNA without specifying the offenses. The state-run radio, also monitored in Cyprus, said the pardons were proposed by Iran's chief justice, Ayatollah Mohamad Yazdi.

Turkish consul in Komotini returns home

ANKARA (R) — Turkey's consul in Komotini, who has been declared persona non grata by Greece, returned home with his family, three days before a deadline set for his departure. Consul Kemal Gur, after crossing the border by car, told reporters at the Ipsala border gate that the situation in Komotini was "very grave," the semi-official Anatolia News Agency reported. The Muslim minority in the region "have their trust shaken in the Greek state and its justice," Anatolia quoted Gur as saying. Gur was ordered to leave for referring to the 200,000-strong Muslim minority as "ethnic brothers" in a petition to authorities in the region recently plagued by ethnic strife. In retaliation Turkey has declared Greece's Istanbul consul general, Elias Kisi, persona non grata. He must leave the country Sunday.

Europe heeds U.S. warning, braces for attack

ING seriously, adding that security was always well-controlled at Greek airports.

However, in Switzerland, Geneva airport officials said they had not yet heard of the State Department announcement.

There was no immediate word from European airports of widespread ticket cancellations following the advisory.

Security was also tight Friday around U.S. diplomatic missions in Europe.

The Turkish Foreign Ministry confirmed the U.S. embassy in Istanbul had asked for extra protection.

The State Department warning was relayed to reporters by spokesman Richard Boucher.

"We are deeply concerned," he said.

"We believe it is possible that this attack may be timed to coincide with the 11th anniversary of the Islamic Revolution in Iran," State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said.

He said the department believed the attack take place on or near Sunday.

At the United Nations in New York, the Iranian mission said the U.S. warning was baseless.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran categorically rejects the baseless allegation made by the U.S. State Department, and considers them to be taken into account."

A senior Greek police officer said Athens took all such warn-

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JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

PROGRAMME ONE	11:59	12:00	12:01	12:02	12:03	12:04	12:05	12:06	12:07	12:08	12:09	12:10	12:11	12:12	12:13	12:14	12:15	12:16	12:17	12:18	12:19	12:20	12:21	12:22	12:23	12:24	12:25	12:26	12:27	12:28	12:29	12:30	12:31	12:32	12:33	12:34	12:35	12:36	12:37	12:38	12:39	12:40	12:41	12:42	12:43	12:44	12:45	12:46	12:47	12:48	12:49	12:50	12:51	12:52	12:53	12:54	12:55	12:56	12:57	12:58	12:59	12:60	12:61	12:62	12:63	12:64	12:65	12:66</th

Hot contest in the offing as engineers gear up for Feb. 23 association elections

By Marwan Shabat
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

last election, held in 1988.

Political character

AMMAN — A body contested race is in the making for the leadership of the Jordan Engineers' Association, with at least nine, including a woman, vying for the presidency, and another nine candidates for the vice-presidency.

Although only two, "blocs" — the traditional "Greens," which espouse pan-Arab and leftist political, economic and social platforms, and the "Whites," which is identified with Islamist tendencies — have taken definite shape ahead of the Feb. 23 elections, association sources said Friday that a third grouping was in the offing and expected to be announced in the next 48 hours.

The association, one of the leading organisations seen as representing the "voice of educated Jordanians," adopts a system of direct elections to a two-year 10-member representative body to speak on behalf of the people, the association assumed an important political role because it represented such a large number of educated Jordanians and also because there was no one else to voice the people's needs," Shbeihat told the Jordan Times. "Now the association should reassess its priorities and concentrate on professional issues and then on political issues," Shbeihat said in a telephone interview Friday.

An association source said he expected at least 6,000 members to take part in the elections, reflecting an increase of 1,000 over the figures for the

said he was not seeking relection, the association "has to raise its standards. Nothing should at this point come above the profession because that is after all our raison d'être. The way things stand now, the issues will no longer be one of the people versus the government; it will be the people versus the people."

Shbeihat, who was supported by both "Greens" and "Whites" in the 1988 election and secured 3,300 votes out of the 5,000 votes cast, said he was supporting "White" candidate Ahmad Keilani for president in the Feb. 23 elections.

Three of the nine candidates seeking the presidency are also expected to assume leadership of the blocs in the association. Ismail Brewhi is expected to head the Green bloc and Ahmad Keilani will head the White bloc. Saleh Irshaidat is tipped to head the yet unnamed third bloc, described by association members as a "variation of the Greens."

The main difference between the "Greens" and the new entity, according to a source close to the group, will be that it will adopt a "new approach towards implementing the platforms."

"The new bloc will deal with the process of democratisation in the kingdom in a more dynamic and feasible manner," the source said.

'New era, new approach'

According to the bloc's presidential candidate, Irshaidat, "we are living in a new era and that era demands a new approach."

"Our role will not be any different in meaning from the traditional Greens; it will only change in means and bases of approach," Irshaidat told the Jordan Times Friday. "Instead of asking for political freedoms, we will ask for steps to be taken to deal with the issue of unemployment of engineers. The issue is no less political, but the approach must change. Dealing with professional issues and being politically involved are two sides of the same coin as far as we are concerned," he added.

Kelani, who enjoys Shbeihat's backing, has a list of "priorities" which he believes should be addressed in that order by the association. Toppling the list are suggestions to tackle unemployment and to decentralise the decision-making powers of the association.

'Higher awareness'

Members of the Green bloc concede that professional issues should indeed be the top priority for the association but argue that it should not cease to be a forum for political activity.

"The amount of political awareness that exists in the engineers' and lawyers' associations probably exceeds that of many people in parliament because these people deal with the day-to-day problems in this country," said a Greens activist. "If their political roles were to be brought to an end, it would be tantamount to a catastrophe since these associations embrace all thoughts and colours in the political spectrum," he said.

Only 8,000 of the 22,000 members of the association are eligible to vote. Many members are outside Jordan, mostly in the Arab Gulf countries, and many others are not up-to-date with payment of their dues to the organisation and thus disqualify from taking part in the elections.

Independent observers estimate that 42 per cent of the members support the Greens and 40 per cent favour the Whites, and set the rest as unqualified from taking part in the elections.

Following are the nine seeking the presidency of the association: Saleh Irshaidat, Ismail Brewhi, Ahmad Keilani, Yusra Barghouti (the sole woman candidate), Abdul Rahman Khader, Tajeeddin Nuseibeh, Abdullah Nather, Izziddin A Al Tell, and Ahmad Abu Zeid.

The candidates for the vice presidency are: Raek Kamel, Adnan Badran, Abdullah Hamamch, Rifi Saboh, Fathi Heisat, Ziad Dabdah, Jalal Duwani, Fuad Silwadi and Husni Abu Ghaida.



The unemployment problem in Jordan is seen by many officials and experts as "behavioural" — meaning that Jordanians turn at accepting "low-level" jobs such as in farming, butcheries, and domestic services (file photo).

Move does not aim at legally employed foreigners, Labour minister explains

Issuance of work permits to be resumed after study

By a Jordan Times

Staff Writer

AMMAN — The Ministry of Labour is currently conducting a study on the labour market in Jordan to determine the Kingdom's requirements of foreign workers, especially in the sectors of agriculture, nursing and domestic services where Jordanian substitutes could not be found, Minister of Labour Qaseem Obeidat said Friday.

Once the study is over, the ministry will resume the issuance of work permits to non-Jordanians whose services are needed in specific areas, the minister was quoted as saying by the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

The minister was interviewed by Petra on the implications and implementation of a decision by the ministry to freeze the issuance of work permits as of Feb. 8 until further notice. The decision was announced Wednesday by the ministry, which said the move was part of the government's policy of alleviating the Kingdom's unemployment problem through closer monitoring and controlling of the local labour market and finding Jordanian replacements for foreign workers in various sectors.

They said the programmes, which will also sometimes be sent by air freight, have prompted JTV to conduct a study of extending the duration of its daily French programme to absorb the additional material.

Fadil Ben Hilaleh, director of the French channel of JTV, told a press conference Thursday that Jordan was the first country in the Middle East to be linked to this service and agreements have been drawn up with Egypt and Syria for similar cooperation and contacts were under way with Iraq, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait on similar agreements.

At present, he said, similar French programmes are sent to 24 African countries under special agreements. The arrangement with JTV was made possible with the installation of a separate antenna near the television station.

JTV to increase French programmes

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan Television (JTV) has started receiving additional four hours of French programmes every day directly beamed from Paris designed to boost French language programmes.

The programmes are being received by Intelsat 5-R-11 satellite through special facilities recently installed at the television station in Amman and the programmes are being offered to Jordan free of charge, according to JTV officials.

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non-Jordanians without obtaining work permits," the minister was quoted as saying by Petra.

The ministry will continue to cooperate with businesses with a view to finding employment for Jordanians, according to Mansour Al Utum, director of the Employment Office of the Ministry of Labour.

Uttum was quoted as saying by Petra that Jordan had enough job opportunities for Jordanians, particularly in non-white collar sectors.

Prime Minister Mudar Badran said recently that there were over 80,000 unemployed Jordanians in the country at a time when 175,000 non-Jordanians were employed in the Kingdom's various sectors. In a move designed to encourage the employment of foreign workers, the ministry has introduced annual work permit charges, ranging from JD 50 in the agricultural and nursing sectors to JD 100 and JD 300 in others.

Uttum, in statements carried by Petra, called on all Jordanian employers to give priority to Jordanians in employment and give training to prepare them to take over jobs from foreigners.

Maan businessmen's call

However, the government move to free the issuance of work permits was criticised by businesses in Maan in the south. A meeting organised by local businessmen in Maan Thursday to discuss the ministry decision decided to send cables to Badran and Obeidat urging the government to rescind the move, "which will have adverse impacts" on Maan businesses.

The department, according to the director, undertook a total of 137 inspection tours to various institutions in Aqaba in January to make sure that regulations related to foreign labourers were followed thoroughly.

Petra that businessmen in the area wanted to help the government in its endeavours to alleviate the unemployment problem, but had been finding little success in their search for Jordanian workers to replace foreigners employed in various sectors.

Mohammad Ali Salameh, owner of a brick-making plant, was quoted as saying by Petra that he had repeatedly advertised in local papers asking for local workers but none had responded, thus forcing him to employ non-Jordanians.

Ahmad Khalaf Salah, who operates a gas cylinder business, said he was disappointed to find that Jordanians did not stay more than a few days of work with him and thus had no alternative other than to employ non-Jordanians.

Mohammed Mousa Abu Saleh, a butcher, also gave a similar story. He said he found Jordanians were not interested in working at a butchery and had to look for non-Jordanians to work for him.

Aqaba situation

The Aqaba labour department provided 151 job opportunities in January for Jordanians out of a total of 160 applications, director of the department told Petra.

The department withheld 79 work permits foreign nationals from 11 countries at the expiry of these permits in accordance with regulations which provide for re-frainment from renewing work permits if Jordanian substitutes could be found.

The department, according to the director, undertook a total of 137 inspection tours to various institutions in Aqaba in January to make sure that regulations related to foreign labourers were followed thoroughly.

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Queen accepts membership in world panel on Alexandria

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor has accepted the invitation of Mrs. Hosni Mubarak, the wife of the Egyptian president, and United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) Director General Federico Mayor to serve on the International Commission for the Revival of the Ancient Library of Alexandria, whose membership includes heads of state, several world dignitaries, notable academicians and a Nobel Prize winner.

The inaugural meeting of the commission will be held in Aswan, Egypt, on Feb. 11-12, under the patronage of President Hosni Mubarak and will be attended by the members of the commission and other distinguished guests.

AMMAN (Petra) — The Lower House of Parliament will hold its 14th Saturday to discuss reports of its various committees. During the session Prime Minister Mudar Badran will present answers to proposals tabled by deputies.

Court to study diplomats' transfer

AMMAN (Petra) — The Higher Court of Justice will Saturday study the case presented by four diplomats who were recently transferred from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the Ministry of Labour and the Court of Civil Service.

Hamdan to attend Thailand conference

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will participate in an international conference on "Education for All" scheduled to convene in Thailand March 5. The four-day conference will discuss means to bolster international cooperation in education. Minister of Education and Higher Education Mohammed Hamdan will lead the Jordanian delegation to the conference.

Halibun not for commercial use

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Supply has warned commercial firms against using "Halibun" dried milk to produce confectionaries, ice cream or biscuits. A ministry statement said the product was imported to Jordan solely for use by the domestic sector and should not be used for commercial purposes. The ministry said its warehouses had enough stock of the product.

Iraqis release Jordanian drivers

AMMAN (Petra) — Two Jordanian drivers detained in Iraq for violating traffic rules on fast highways have been released, according to a notification received here by the Ministry of Interior from Baghdad. The two were freed after paying fines. Fines for this nature of violations could reach up to JD 5,000.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ A plastic art exhibition which includes paintings, sculptures and ceramic works, at the Spanish Cultural Centre.
- ★ An exhibition of photos of plays directed by Chereau, Meierchich, Minouchka, Piscator and others, at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ A photographic exhibition entitled "Panorama 1989" at the Soviet Cultural Centre.
- ★ An exhibition of paintings by Alia Ammoura, Nabil Hisham and Abdallah at Abd Al-Hameed Shoman Foundation.
- ★ A plastic art exhibition by Tawfiq Al Sayed at the Goethe Institute.
- ★ An exhibition entitled "The Blue Rider" at Mu'ta University.

LECTURE

- ★ A lecture by Dr. Deodat Al Karri on "the conservation of threatened wildflowers in Jordan" at the AUB Alumni Club — 7:30 p.m.

FILM

- ★ An Italian film entitled "Long Live the Lady," shown as part of the European film festival, at Philadelphia Hotel at 8:30 p.m.

CONCERT

- ★ A concert by the French duo Gerard and Manouche accompanied by Elias Matouk at Yarmouk University at 6:00 p.m.

Europe film festival begins today

By Sama Atiyeh

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Movie-goers and film addicts who enjoy watching "non-American" movies once in a while have difficulty in finding European films in Jordan. But now is the time for those addicts to indulge in "foreign" movies for eight consecutive days.

Starting next Saturday, eight member states of the European Community (EC), and the EC delegation in Jordan, are bringing a cross-section of different films from Europe to the Jordanian audience an idea of the "best" cinematic productions by European countries in the last three years, that are not normally available in Jordan.

Falkowski said that the European film festival, the third of its kind held in Amman patronised by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, reflects "the rich variety of individual national characteristics which, taken as a whole, represents a unique cultural blend" of European culture.

According to the head of the EC delegation, Christian Falkowski, providing a cross-section of different films from Europe gives Jordanian audience an idea of the "best" cinematic productions by European countries in the last three years, that are not normally available in Jordan.

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From the synopsis distributed to the press, the British drama, on the Black Hill, sounds like one of those best seller mini-series seen on TV — a saga of generations in a Welsh farm from 1890 to 1980.

The Belgian drama is about love and loyalty; the Greek about

audience demand, some of the films were repeated at extra screenings.

Jordan is the only country in the Middle East where these annual film festivals are held. But as a result of the success of the films in Amman, a similar European film festival will now take place in Damascus next month," Falkowski said at a press conference earlier this week.

He said that the screening of European movies was only one manifestation in introducing European culture, especially that Jordanians "love to watch movies."

He also stressed the need to hold monthly meetings to promote the standard of health specialists and introduce mothers to the importance of breastfeeding and educate them on breast cancer.

Thursday, Zaben called for closer control of food factories particularly dairy plants and bakeries.

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There is comedy, drama and adventure in the cross-section of films this year, all of which are productions of the late 198

Jordan Times

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Floatation vs inflation

THE RECENT decision of the Central Bank to float interest rates in a bid to promote investment, curb inflation and bolster the value of the Jordanian currency is indeed commendable, albeit over due. Yet, after many days on the application of that bold monetary policy the interest rates have not floated high enough to reach even the expected inflationary rate which is conservatively estimated at 13 per cent. This suggests that the floatation process is more artificial than real, for experts would readily concede that interest rates should not be lower than the inflation rate, otherwise they would effectively be negative real interest rates.

Since the Kingdom has started a new phase in all its styles of life, be they political or economic or whatever on the basis of frankness and realism in dealing with one another, one is at a loss to explain the lack of such avowed features in maintaining interest rates at such a low level where they can never be expected to promote investment or curb inflation or bolster the value of the dinar as projected. Jordan is not the only country nor the last to suffer from high inflation, unemployment and weakening currency. Yet, in all the countries with similar woes the first adjustment made to rectify the course of the country has been to raise interest rates a few points beyond the rate of inflation. As potential Jordanian investors are currently at the mercy of the banks operating in the country, which apparently determine or even fix interest rates in a manner most profitable to them, the Central Bank of Jordan is dutybound to intervene in a manner similar to interventions of other central banks all over the world. The first thing that Jordan's Central Bank is called upon to do is to fix rediscount rate in line with the projected rate of inflation which would serve as a basis for lending between the bank and other commercial banks in Jordan or among commercial banks. The next move could take the form of calculating a commercial interest rate on the basis of the central bank's interest rate. Such a step would create the kind of climate which could promote investment, curb inflation and support the dinar. Once investment is truly encouraged, there would be enough capital generated in the country to construct and develop the kind of export-oriented industries as well as labour intensive enterprises that the country is in need of. Then and only then can Jordanians aspire to end their economic and fiscal hardships on a realistic and pragmatic basis.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

All Ra'i Arabic daily on Friday lamented the situation in the Arab region and said that while the world is moving towards real economic and political development, the Arab countries are still in disarray and dealing with side issues, unable to deal with matters of real concern to the Arab people in the coming century. The paper said that Europe and the world at large are witnessing real change to the better, as the East-West tension eases and as Europe prepares for unity by the year 1992. The door is now open for real change in government and economic structures and the statesmen of the world are reassessing their priorities in view of the developments and with a view to working out new formulas for the 21st century, said the paper. But, it noted, the Arab countries are still lagging behind, and did not prepare anything for the coming century, involved only in side issues without any real and serious planning for the future. It said that the Arab World tries desperately to deal with the influx of Soviet Jews into Palestine, the question of river waters flowing to Iraq, Syria and Egypt, the situation in Lebanon and other matters without preparation, planning or joint efforts. The paper urged the Arab leaders to meet at a summit where they can seriously discuss matters of concern to their people and plan for real unity without which there is no future for the Arab Nation.

Al Destour Arabic daily discussed the situation in Palestine as the uprising there enters the third month of its third year. The paper said that one cannot but express real admiration and total support for the oppressed people trying to resist an aggressive power and all forms of barbaric and criminal actions. The paper expressed regret that violence and oppression being imposed on the Palestinians have not yet aroused the conscience of the free and civilised world. It said that the latest picture of barbaric action is now being exercised against the Palestinian city of Rafah because the driver of a bus that was attacked in Egypt recently resulting in the death of a group of Israelis came from that town. As the atrocities continue, the American president insists on showing his support for the Israeli crimes by demanding that Moscow operate direct flights between Moscow and Palestine to fly Jews who will be settled on Arab land with American money, the paper noted. Instead of exercising its pressure on Israeli leaders to stop brutal practices, the United States is stubbornly following the course of aggression against the Arabs, totally disregarding international principles and human rights.

Sawt Al Shabab Arabic daily commented on the situation in Lebanon where the Christians are involved in a fratricidal war. The paper said that as the leaders of the Shi'ite groups are continually fighting each other not on religious ground, the turn now is for the Christians to follow suit and kill one another in a manner that could only satisfy the selfish interests of their leaders. The past years have proved that all conflicts inside Lebanon have nothing to do with religion or faith, and proved also that no foreign country or the Pope can bring an end to the greed of the leaders of factional groups, the paper said. It suggested that the legitimate central power of the president should move to end all Shi'ite or Christian fighting and put an end to the Lebanese people's ordeal.

View From Amman

Democracy and National Charter — II

By Kamel S. Abu Jaber

THE practice of democracy is like its very concept, indivisible: either you have it or you don't. It is from this premise that the future Jordan National Charter should emanate. It should be flexible enough to allow for new developments over time. And, while it should give direction, it must never be allowed to become a straitjacket for the body or the mind, but merely light the way.

I have always been afraid of those who think they have a monopoly over the truth and who speak in absolute terms. For, it is they who, acting under the guise of democracy, kill its very essence, and in the name of creating a philosophy for one or another aspect of life: the economy, education, social transformation... they create yet another pattern, another mould the escape or deviation from which is most difficult.

What we need is a developing set of concepts to help in reaching our goals whether political, economic, or social. A living ideology that is in constant interaction with life, changing as life changes, and not a yoke over our necks making our life more difficult. A forward looking manifesto anticipating the future, its challenges, changes and possibilities and not a totalitarian creed that ties us to a post. Our charter should indeed rest upon and foster our sense of historical values, tradition and mission, again developing out of these an agenda for the future, not fixating itself in the past.

The charter should revolve around the major issues dealing with our present and future life. An attempt should be made at

deciding certain issues: ideologically, politically, economically and socially. What sort of society do we visualise for ourselves and our children? What are the broad strategic outlines and hopes? What methods are we to pursue to reach these goals?

Above all else we must liberate our mind so that it can roam, speculate, question, seek answers and attempt solutions. All aspects of life should be subject to our scrutiny and questioning. In looking over our past few centuries as contrasted with those of the Western experience, we must realise that Western society broke the syndrome of underdevelopment, ignorance and disease when the mind of the average man was released. We need not repeat the same experience exactly but we do need to look very closely so as to find out why and how they succeeded while we are still grappling with the same questions of centuries ago.

The charter should be an elaboration; an expansion of the lofty principles of democracy and the dignity of man already present in our cultural heritage. Until only two or three decades ago, our people in Jordan and Palestine lived in rural towns, villages, or as nomads. Consultation, a form of de facto democracy, was already one of our main cultural traits. The village elder, the *mukhtar*, the selector, consulted with his people on their affairs. The same was true of the sheikh of the tribe in whose *dwārūn*, council, the elders of the tribe decided their affairs in consultation with each other. These social institutions, our historical heritage, lost since

the rise of the modern nation state with the conclusion of World War I, should not be ignored. These social legacies can also be supported by the spiritual injunctions of the glorious Koran itself. In one of the verses the Koran exhorted that "their" affairs are in consultation among themselves, and in a later verse there is the order, "consult them" in their affairs.

Now that the international and regional atmosphere seems encouraging, we should take the chance and see to it that a new Jordan can be constructed. Both His Majesty King Hussein, and King Abdullah declared and acted upon their intention to expand the horizons of the participatory system of government. Democracy, while rooted in Greek thought is also part and parcel of the heritage of man. It has been part of the dream of free people throughout the ages. It is a system designed to expand not restrict the horizons of man in his society. It allows for stability and legitimacy while ensuring liberty and participation. Its greatest advantage is that it allows for the release of individual talent, the individual initiative, to explore new horizons without discarding old values. It is the maintenance of that delicately balanced tension that ensures the survival of the thesis and its anti-thesis at the same time, constantly stirring the mixture and thus allowing for the vitality of life to continue.

At Mithaq, the charter should give new hope by its intended, or specifically intended mixture of modernity and traditionalism.

Fayoum fundamentalist remains as enigmatic as his supporters

By Myra MacDonald
Reuter

FAYOUM, Egypt — At dusk a blind man in long white robes is led by his three sons from his home to the mosque across the road.

The Egyptian authorities regard Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman — the Muslim theologian accused but acquitted of inciting the assassination of President Anwar Sadat in 1981 — as one of the country's most dangerous men.

He is living under house arrest, cooped up on two floors of a small government-subsidised home in Fayoum, a pretty oasis city southeast of Cairo, with two wives and eight children.

The 52-year-old spiritual leader of the outlawed Al Jamaa Al Islamiya is on trial for alleged involvement in street clashes last April, but a court order has freed

him pending the verdict.

Officially Sheikh Omar can go where he wants, but more than a dozen security guards around his house turn away visitors.

He is allowed out once a day to cross a dusty unpaved street to attend evening prayers at the tiny Sayed Kamel mosque. The guards fend off anyone trying to talk to him on his way there.

The guards point to a sign above the house's door saying it is a nursery school.

"And I am the headmaster of the school," said one man, his face nearly covered by a brown muffler, dark glasses and a black cap, who ordered journalists to leave — so as not to disturb the children.

Sheikh Omar's only contact with the outside world is the telephone.

He says he is not even allowed to attend the noon prayers on a

Friday, the most important weekly ceremony for a Muslim.

"You will write that I said that, won't you," he said on the telephone.

Sheikh Omar wanted to give a news conference. But journalists outside his house were told he was out of town and would not talk to women.

He said on the telephone that he was in Fayoum and did want to talk.

Sheikh Omar is as much of an enigma as the fundamentalists who support him, surrounded by so many myths and conflicting information which keeps the truth a mystery.

Dangerous criminal or persecuted blind man, Sheikh Omar shows up the rival views of Egyptians about fundamentalists.

Some think the Islamic militants are plotting the violent overthrow of the state to set up an Iranian-style regime.

Old men sit outside drinking tea under the winter sun and talking. A few tourists come to buy baskets and look at Fayoum's

famous water wheels.

To the government, Fayoum is a hotbed of fundamentalism.

But only the presence of dozens of soldiers, standing on alert after Friday prayers, gives any hint of tension.

Even today, the fundamentalist movement remains as obscure as it did 10 years ago before the murder of Sadat.

Fragmented into groups, it ranges from the Janas, initially a university-based grouping courted by Sadat to offset Communists, to the Jihad — whose members killed Sadat — to the Muslim Brotherhood. Only the Brotherhood has gained official tolerance and is allowed to sit in parliament.

All offer Islam as the solution to Egypt's problems and are believed to have support in all levels of society.

Their influence is evident in the

growing number of women wearing the veil and in increasing numbers of people who stop work to pray five times a day.

Many believe that is simply because more Egyptians are turning to religion to find comfort from economic hardship.

Since Sadat's assassination fundamentalists have kept a relatively low profile, but whether this is because they are weaker or better controlled is impossible to assess.

New Interior Minister Mohamed Mousa, who replaced hardliner Zaki Badr last month, is reported to be a moderate, able to talk to Muslims. Newspapers say hundreds have been released from jail since Mousa took office.

But Sheikh Omar says dozens have been arrested since Mousa took over and the worst in Fayoum is that he is even tougher than his predecessor.

'Sanctions forced change in South Africa'

By Christopher Wilson
Reuter

JOHANNESBURG — Economic sanctions against South Africa have worked.

This is the conclusion of economists and political analysts who believe that the level of pain inflicted on South Africa by sanctions had become unbearable and was a major factor behind the government's recent sweeping political reforms.

Anti-apartheid campaigners worldwide hailed the lifting of a 30-year-old ban on the African National Congress (ANC) by President F.W. de Klerk and his promise of freedom for jailed ANC leader Nelson Mandela as a victory for sanctions.

Scrupulous analysts who once feared that financial and trade penalties would only stiffen the white government's resolve to cling to power and increase its hostility towards the outside world now concede that sanctions played a pivotal role in bringing political change.

"Without doubt it was necessary to put pressure on the government to implement reforms. One can't deny that sanctions have played a role in this," said Sampie Terreblanche, professor of economics at Stellenbosch University.

Others agree. "It would be naive to believe that sanctions had no part in the recent reforms," said Ronnie Bethlehem, chief economist at mining house Johannesburg Consolidated Industries.

They added that foreign companies would not be keen to invest here as long as the ANC advocated nationalisation of major industries.

Economists point to a landmark speech by former Reserve Bank Governor Gerhard de Kock in 1988, in which he said Pretoria would have to devise a more equitable political system if it hoped to stem the flight of capital and revive growth.

They said the speech revealed

"This game of sticks and carrots has to be played with great sophistication," he said.

Economists expect the United States to take the lead in reasserting sanctions as it did in 1986 when Congress enacted the comprehensive anti-apartheid act, barring imports of South African iron, steel, coal, agricultural produce and krugerrands and halting new investment and bank loans.

But few believe sanctions will be rolled back until the government releases Mandela and starts power-sharing negotiations with the black majority.

"A reassessment of sanctions is now called for by the U.S. and the European Community. But the timing is very delicate. If sanctions are lifted too quickly, it could alienate the ANC," said a Western diplomat in Pretoria.

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher said on Tuesday the European Community should lift its ban on new investment in South Africa when Mandela is freed.

But political analysts said Thatcher risked losing leverage with blacks if she pushed too hard to ease the pressure on Pretoria.

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Battle lines on the vexed sanctions issue are as clear inside South Africa as the racial divide itself. Most black leaders — in the ANC, anti-apartheid groups, the churches and the trade unions — support them. Most whites oppose them.

Sanctions have played a major part in bringing South Africa this far. To lift the pressure now would be premature. The time to lift sanctions is once political negotiations are underway," said reformed churches leader Allan Boesak.

Meanwhile, local businessmen have become expert sanctions busters and South African companies operating abroad have learned to cover their tracks for fear of embarrassing attacks on their products and customers.

South African trade is now a murky business of middlemen, front companies, bills of lading with differing destinations and clandestine shipments through politically neutral countries.

Despite the bravado associated with circumventing sanctions, the psychological impact of disinvestment by a string of big-name multinational companies and the retreat into a siege economy has taken its toll.

The annual growth rate dropped to under two per cent in the 1980s from an average four per cent in the 1970s. The value of the rand has plummeted by two thirds against the dollar and halved against sterling over the past decade.

Black unemployment, estimated at 35 per cent, is soaring. Economists say that without foreign investment and bank loans, South Africa cannot hope to generate the four or five per cent growth it needs to keep pace with the burgeoning population.

Oppression and capitalism go hand in hand," said Peter Mokaba of the South African Youth Congress, a major anti-apartheid group close to the ANC.

Party members occupy key positions in the African National Congress (ANC) guerrilla organisation, also unbanned by President F.W. de Klerk, and in rapidly growing black trade unions.

Left-wing activists and academics said the SACP is held in respect by many blacks who believe business has profited from the large pool of cheap black labour created by apartheid.

"The youth are very aware of Eastern Europe and support perestroika," said Mokaba, referring to Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev's reforms in the Soviet Union.

Alexander told Reuters former guerrillas trained in Eastern Europe before

Le Jourdain Supplément en français

Invité à Amman à l'occasion de la première «tribune» musicale arabe

Patrick Lama: la tradition contemporaine

La première «tribune radiophonique» consacrée à la musique traditionnelle arabe s'est déroulée à Amman du 3 au 7 février, à l'occasion de la 12ème réunion du bureau exécutif de l'Académie de musique arabe (AMA). Parmi les artistes invités, figuraient notamment le pianiste et compositeur d'origine

Le pianiste Patrick Lama. Depuis son installation à Paris en 1967, ce «musicien-chercheur» se consacre à l'étude approfondie des mélodies et des rythmes de la musique des premiers siècles de l'Islam. Etude, qu'il a mise au service de ses propres compositions.

Ne nous impressionnez pas. Tout au contraire des musiques traditionnelles arabes qu'il soit, Patrick Lama est un compositeur de musique contemporaine. Ainsi de ses partitions pour piano, qu'il a interprétées pour la première fois au cours d'une conférence dans les salons de l'hôtel Philadelphia monégasque de son. Alors, aux temps lointains et aux rythmes abondants, ses créations recèlent pourtant scories de son érotisme avec la musique arabe des premiers siècles de l'Islam, celle du temps de la «Renaissance islamique» et des premiers califes.

Parfois arié, souvent abstraite, l'œuvre de Patrick Lama est le fruit d'une volonté plastique originale dans le monde des arts arabes née d'un concomitance dans une condition culturelle au service d'une création artistique authentique, double d'une intégration de toutes les dimensions et d'une instrumentation étrangère à cette tradition régionale.

Entre Orient et Occident

L'ensemble personnel de Patrick Lama illustre parfaitement le trait d'union qui a été placé dans ses œuvres entre l'Orient et l'Occident. Né en 1940 à Jérusalem, il a passé toute sa jeunesse entouré de musiques et de traditions. Son père tenait en effet à l'époque les organes de l'église du Saint-Sépulcre. Compositeur de musique religieuse, c'est lui qui a mis le pied à l'étrier à son fils. «Mon père a été mon premier maître», souligne-t-il.

En 1960, c'est pourtant en France que Patrick Lama, ainsi d'une bonne, fait ses premières gammes d'étudiant. Il apprend le piano à l'école normale de musique de Paris. Quatre ans plus tard, son diplôme d'enseignement en poche, il choisit de rentrer en Palestine. «Je voulais créer



Patrick Lama jouant sur son clavecin mercredi dernier: une première à Amman.

à Jérusalem une école de musique et y mettre en contact les cultures occidentale et orientale», rappelle-t-il.

Le projet du jeune musicien palestinien ne sera pas le seul. En 1967 l'incident, il prend tout de nouveau dans l'académie et de musiques. Son père tenait en effet à l'époque les organes de l'église du Saint-Sépulcre. Compositeur de musique religieuse, c'est lui qui a mis le pied à l'étrier à son fils. «Mon père a été mon premier maître», souligne-t-il.

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notamment une école de musique et y mettre en contact les cultures occidentale et orientale», rappelle-t-il.

Cette fois l'idée prend corps. Subventionnée en 1978 par l'UNESCO, Patrick Lama prend des cours de direction d'orchestre et de composition, avec le compositeur français Henri Dutilleux. «Dès le début de mes études, je pensais à écrire des œuvres», affirme-t-il.

Il lui réussit rapidement une «composition à harmoniser». «Je ne pouvais pas composer de musique authentique sans une source. C'est alors qu'il commence à se plonger dans la musique arabe traditionnelle. «Je me suis refait une éducation occidentale», avoue-t-il.

Il a aussi essayé quelques critiques. «On écrit la musique arabe depuis la fin du XIXe siècle seulement. Certains musiciens continuent d'ailleurs à

des modes, des genres et même de l'école musicale des premiers siècles de l'Islam. L'appréhension, j'ai pensé faire une étude particulière sur la musique palestinienne. Ce n'avait jamais été fait», poursuit-il.

Cette fois l'idée prend corps. Subventionnée en 1978 par l'UNESCO, Patrick Lama part à la recherche d'orchestration. «J'en venais en Jordanie, au Liban...». De retour à Paris, il transcrit pour la première fois des mélodies juives écrites et entreprend d'analyser leurs liens structuraux avec la musique classique, dans un livre paru en 1981. «Les structures, souvent basées sur une série de quatre notes, étaient faciles à reconnaître. Par contre, j'ai eu beaucoup de mal à leur donner une notation occidentale», avoue-t-il.

Il a aussi essayé quelques critiques. «On écrit la musique arabe depuis la fin du XIXe siècle seulement. Certains musiciens continuent d'ailleurs à

y être opposés». Patrick Lama, lui, a choisi de s'en servir. «Dans nos œuvres pour piano, j'ai notamment conservé les structures à quatre notes.

Un manque de création

Le compositeur les a cependant mis au service d'une écriture musicale moderne et destinée à des instruments occidentaux. Il en va de même pour le chant, qu'il a composé pour soprano, accompagnée par un quatuor qui ne peut plus occéder: hautbois, clarinette, flute et piano. «Le gros problème actuel des musiciens arabes vient de leurs compétences à l'égard de l'Europe ou des Etats-Unis. Soit ils imitent l'Occident, soit ils «orientalisent» des instruments, qu'ils ridiculisent le plus.

Selon lui, ces «complexe» sont à l'origine d'un «important import de musique» contemporaine dans le monde arabe. «La plupart du temps, les musiciens orchestrent des mélodies arbes ou copient celles de l'Occident. On voit, si devient une mode, de médiocre qualité musicale, qui répondent avant tout à des sollicitations politiques. Du coup, notre culture se fige et il est encore difficile de faire comprendre ici que la création musicale authentique est possible».

La voie empruntée par Patrick Lama reste étonnante. Ses partitions sont aujourd'hui étudiées dans les conservatoires de Bonn ou Bruxelles mais elles ne sont jamais jouées par d'autres musiciens. Si l'orchestre euro-arabe vient de lui commander une œuvre, il est cependant curieux que l'Institut du Monde Arabe, à Paris, n'en ait encore jamais sollicité une «musicien-chercheur» unique en son genre.

Alain Reina.

Le rôle de l'UNESCO "Diffuser la musique traditionnelle"

Le Conseil international de la musique (CIM), organisme de l'UNESCO basé à Paris, est à l'origine des «tribunes radiophoniques» offertes aux compositeurs et interprètes de musiques traditionnelles dans le monde. Jeudi s'est achevée à Amman la première du genre dans le monde arabe. Guy Huet, secrétaire exécutif du CIM, explique au «Jourdain» le rôle de diffusion des œuvres «recommandées» que joue le Conseil.

Le Jourdain: Quel bilan faites-vous de par exemple, une collection de disques de musiques traditionnelles, qui comportent aujourd'hui à peu près 150 titres. Nous sommes d'ailleurs en train de les rééditer graduellement en disques compacts et cassettes avec l'aide de la compagnie française Auvidis. Le CIM travaille également à la réalisation d'une encyclopédie mondiale de la musique...

L.J.: La diffusion à grande échelle ne conduit-elle parfois à une perte d'authenticité, compositeurs et interprètes s'adaptant à leurs nouveaux publics?

G.H.: C'est une crainte qui a été assez souvent évoquée pendant nos discussions. Je crois que la transformation des musiques, au contact des autres cultures ou par besoin de commercialisation, est une évolution normale. Mais il faut parallèlement préserver la tradition telle qu'elle devrait être. C'est aussi notre tâche.

L.J.: La création musicale est l'un des problèmes majeurs de la musique arabe. Le CIM peut-il la assister à ce rôle?

G.H.: En principe, le CIM peut fournir une aide à la création. En pratique, je ne sais pas encore comment ça peut se faire. C'est au contact de nos collègues arabes, avec lesquels nous avons désormais rendez-vous tous les deux ans, que je l'apprendrai.

L.J.: De quels autres moyens de promotion disposez-vous?

G.H.: Ils sont très variés. Nous avons,

EN BREF

Emploi. Le ministère jordanien du Travail a suspendu jeudi l'octroi de permis de travail aux étrangers et décidé de mener une enquête pour mettre un terme à l'emploi d'immigrés clandestins dans le pays. Selon les autorités, ces derniers représenteraient en effet plus de 78% des 210.000 étrangers travaillant dans le royaume. Ces mesures font suite aux déclarations du ministre du Travail, Gassim Obeidat, qui a appelé la semaine dernière à la mise en place d'un «programme d'urgence» pour donner cette année 25.000 emplois à des ressortissants nationaux. D'après les chiffres officiels, 100.000 Jordaniens, sur une population active totale de quelque 600.000 personnes, se trouvent actuellement au chômage.

CCA. Le secrétaire général du Conseil de coopération arabe (CCA) a affirmé mercredi à Amman que l'immigration des juifs soviétiques en Israël sera la question la plus importante dans celle qui seraient débattues au sommet du 24 février prochain en Jordanie. Quantifiant cette vague de nouveaux arrivants de «défi évident pour les pays arabes», Hilmil Naimer a notamment souligné que ses «répercussions» se dérouleront «dangereuses» pour le règlement de la question palestinienne. Lundi, 97 personnes ont adressé une pétition à l'ambassade de l'URSS à Amman, appelaient Moscou à une «action rapide visant à arrêter cette immigration massive vers la Palestine occupée».

Révolution. L'OL a officiellement demandé à la Jordanie d'accueillir une réunion du Conseil central palestinien au début du mois de mars. Structure consultative intermédiaire entre la direction du mouvement et le Conseil national palestinien, le CCP pourrait voir réuni à Amman les leaders du FDLP et du PFLP. Nafez Hawatmeh et Georges Habache, pour la première fois depuis septembre 1970.

Revendication. L'un des principaux groupes islamistes des territoires occupés, Beit Al Ma'dress, a revendiqué lundi depuis Amman l'attentat du week-end dernier contre un autobus, qui transportait des touristes israéliens d'Israël en Egypte. La veille, une organisation islamique avait elle aussi clamé sa responsabilité dans cet acte terroriste, qui a coûté la vie à 11 personnes. Alors que les autorités du Caire poursuivent leur investigation, le Front populaire de libération de la Palestine-Commandement général (FPLP-d') a démenti mercredi depuis Damas être impliqué dans l'attentat.

Révolution. Au terme de deux jours et demi d'âpres débats, marqués par une offensive en règle des conservateurs contre Mikhaïl Gorbatchev, le plenum du Comité central du Parti communiste soviétique a finalement accepté mercredi d'ouvrir la voie au multipartisme en URSS en adoptant la proposition du numéro 5 d'établir la souveraineté de l'article 6 de la Constitution, qui affirme le rôle dirigeant exclusif du PC dans le pays. Point important de la réforme politique nationale envisagée par M. Gorbatchev, cette décision doit cependant être approuvée par le 28e Congrès du PC soviétique, prévu fin juin ou début juillet, pour entrer en vigueur. Le vote est intervenu au moment où le secrétaire d'Etat américain entamait une visite de trois jours en URSS. Le voyage de James Baker dans le cadre de la préparation du prochain sommet Bush-Gorbachev de juin, aux Etats-Unis.

Vote immigré. Quelque 130 organisations viennent de créer un «Collectif pour le droit de vote des résidents étrangers aux élections locales, en France, avec pour objectif d'obtenir l'entrée en vigueur d'une loi en ce sens avant la fin de la législature, en 1992. Ce droit comprendrait également l'éligibilité des résidents étrangers aux mêmes élections, c'est-à-dire «municipales, cantonales et régionales», a précisé mercredi M. Henri Ledieu, vice-président de la Ligue des droits de l'Homme, au cours d'une conférence de presse.

Tentation. Des épouses de marins de la Royal Navy ont protesté mardi contre la décision du gouvernement britannique d'autoriser les personnels féminins de l'armée à servir sur les frégates. «Je n'aime pas ça. Vous ne pouvez pas vous attendre à ce que les hommes restent dans leurs quartiers et les femmes dans les leurs», a notamment souligné l'une d'entre elles, plutôt effrayée par cette révolution... typiquement britannique.

A L'AFFICHE

CINEMA

Death with father, de Michael Coritz, avec William Powell, Irene Dunne et Elizabeth Taylor. L'éducation d'une jeune fille par un père affectueux mais autoritaire et nostalgique de l'époque victorienne, qui use volontiers de la baguette de bambou. Un aperçu sur la vie quotidienne à New York au tournant du siècle. Centre culturel, dimanche, 11 février, à 15h00 (en anglais).

Films européens. Le délégué de la CEE en Jordanie, en collaboration avec les ambassades de la Communauté européenne, proposent huit rendez-vous avec le cinéma des années 1980 du Vieux Continent. Cinéma Philadelphie, de vendredi 10 au dimanche 13 février. Séances à 20h00. Entrée libre. (Voir encadré).

CONCERT

Trio. Les violonistes français Josette Gérard et Bernard Mauppin, accompagnés au piano par Elsa Matouk, interprètent des œuvres de Sosha et Rostropovitch. Centre culturel français, dimanche, 11 février à 19h00 (en anglais).

Orson Welles. Regard sur l'écrivain, l'acteur, le réalisateur et producteur, récompensé en 1970 (Oscar spécial) pour l'ensemble de son œuvre cinématographique, dont son fameux «Citizen Kane.»

Centre américain, mardi 13 février à 19h00 (en anglais).

EXPOSITIONS

Photo. 29 images pour 29 mises en scène de Chéreau, Mesquini, Mnouchkine, Savary, Vitez..., captées par les photographes français Brigitte et Marc Enguerrand.

Peinture. «Du réalisme à l'abstrait,» exposition consacrée aux peintres Alia al-Shanqiti, Nabila Hilmi et Nawal al-Abdallah. Centre culturel français, jusqu'au 22 février.

Film. 11 films, de Gaged edge: The world according to Garp; Bugsy Malone; Little girl who could; The Black Hills; Blood of others (II); Hotel New Hampshire; Working girl; Bad kids.

Centre culturel français, dimanche 11 février à 13h00 (en anglais).

STUDIOS

Foto. 29 images pour 29 mises en scène de Chéreau, Mesquini, Mnouchkine, Savary, Vitez..., captées par les photographes français Brigitte et Marc Enguerrand.

Peinture. «Du réalisme à l'abstrait,» exposition consacrée aux peintres Alia al-Shanqiti, Nabila Hilmi et Nawal al-Abdallah. Centre culturel français, jusqu'au 22 février.

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Higher interest rates, Third World lending press Japanese banks

TOKYO (AP) — Japanese banks may have a lion's share of the international banking business, but they now must come to grips with the same problems that hampered many big U.S. banks in the last decade: bad Third World loans, rising interest rates and a potential downturn in their domestic real estate market.

"It's clear the Japanese banks will be pressured to take on a more philanthropic role," Simon Smithson, an analyst with Kleinwort Benson Securities, said of Japan's Third World debt exposure. "Some hard decisions will have to be made."

Japanese banks now constitute the world's 10 biggest on basis of assets, partly due to growth stemming from the booming Japanese economy of the 1980s and the rise of the yen against the dollar.

As they grew so did their international business, including such areas as developing-country loans that now are seen as potential trouble spots.

In recent years, U.S. banks have restructured a significant portion of their loans to many Latin American countries while beefing up reserves for covering bad loans and writing down the

value of some credits. Those make are ultimately for real estate and could become irrecoverable," he said.

Concern over Tokyo's inflated land prices reaches into many sectors of the economy. The rate of increase has slowed since 1987, when land prices grew 70 per cent, to 24 per cent in 1988 and 2.7 per cent in the first six months of 1989 — leading some analysts to conclude that prices could soften or fall.

Reflecting uncertainty over Japan's overheated property market Moody's Investors Service Inc. this week downgraded its credit ratings for Japan's three largest trust banks — Mitsubishi Trust and Banking Corp., Sumitomo Trust and Banking Co., and Mitsui Trust and Banking Co.

Land in Tokyo's highest-priced residential area actually did fall in the first half of last year, by 4.4 per cent from a year earlier, the National Land Agency reported.

In an average-priced Tokyo neighbourhood, a square metre of residential land costs 1 million yen (\$6,900), according to a survey last spring by the Association of Real Estate Appraisal.

But Tokyo's commercial land prices continued to edge up last year. The most expensive commercial property cost 35.3 million yen (\$254,000) a square metre last year, up from 33.6 million yen (\$242,000) the previous year.

The Soviet Union's borrowing accounted for almost all of the loans to Eastern Europe in the quarter. Its foreign bank debt has risen by around \$9 billion in the year ended last September, making its indebtedness roughly equal to Australia's.

The Soviet Union also withdrew \$675 million in foreign deposits, bringing its total down to \$14.77 billion. In addition, its borrowing on international bond markets rose by \$600 million in the quarter to \$1.4 billion.

The next biggest borrower in the period was Czechoslovakia, whose bank debt rose an adjusted \$223 million to \$4.6 billion.

Hungary's debt to BIS reporting banks advanced by \$158 million to \$11.4 billion, and Bulgaria's outstanding borrowing climbed by \$104 million to \$7.48 billion.

Bass completes deal for Holiday Inn chain

ATLANTA (AP) — The worldwide base of Holiday Inns is moving to Atlanta, though the U.S. operations of "the world's innkeeper" will remain in Memphis, Tennessee, a British brewer said Thursday after completing a \$2.2 billion acquisition of the motel chain.

Bass PLC of Great Britain announced it had completed the acquisition about three weeks after Holiday Corp. shareholders overwhelmingly approved the sale of the chain and three years after Bass became involved in the business by buying eight European Holiday Inns.

Bass, which has more than 7,300 pubs and restaurants in the United Kingdom and brews a variety of beers including Bass and carling Black Label, sought the Holiday Inns in an effort to establish itself as an international force in the hotel industry.

Holiday Inns have 1,589 hotels and 318,012 rooms in 52 countries around the world.

"We've been moving toward this global situation for a few years," said Hamish Swan, vice president of Bass' hotel division.

Swan said the Atlanta headquarters will include a relatively small staff including Bryan Langton, the chairman of the Bass hotels and restaurants division who will become chairman and chief executive officer of Holiday Inns Inc.

E. Germany brakes rush to union

EAST BERLIN (R) — The East German government has put a brake on the headlong rush towards German unity, telling Bonn that currency union will have to wait at least until after its first free elections next month.

West Germany is pushing all out to merge its powerful currency with the non-convertible East German mark as a first step to political union.

But East German Economics Minister Christa Luft said Thursday her government did not have the authority to bargain away effective control of its economy to Bonn.

"Such a union has such huge economic and social consequences that a government with only a few weeks left in office understandably cannot give its blessing," Luft told Reuters during

an international conference in Potsdam.

The East German elections, unprecedented in a country ruled by communists since its founding in 1949, are due March 18.

Earlier Prime Minister Hans Modrow said he would not respond to an offer to discuss currency union with West Germany until he visited Bonn next week.

He told West German television he had not even been officially informed of the offer, made by the Bonn cabinet Wednesday, but heard about it through the media.

A week ago most observers saw currency union as a far-off goal but West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl appears to have staked his political future on it. West Germany holds its own

national elections in December. Kohl's call Tuesday for immediate talks on currency union was coupled with a rider that he knew it would be impossible to achieve before next month's East German elections.

But the two Germans are split between the Warsaw Pact and NATO, the Western military alliance, which has called for concrete plans on the future of European security.

The Frankfurt bond market got the jitters about rising inflation, sending money market rates soaring.

"West Germany is about to embark on a huge political gamble with economic consequences which cannot be calculated," said Graham Bishop of brokers Salomon Brothers in London. "It is a leap in the dark."

quick union than watch its eastern neighbour slowly disintegrate.

But its bold overtures have opened a Pandora's box of worries over financial and political stability.

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Sweden proposes price-wage freeze

STOCKHOLM (AP) — The government Thursday proposed a two-year wage-price freeze and a ban on strikes, in what it called a take-it-or-leave-it package to bring crippling labour action under control.

Banks reporting to the BIS said their total lending to the region swelled by \$1.93 billion between the end of June and the end of September to \$91.80 billion. The major Western banks loaned the region \$6.54 billion in the first half of 1989.

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Strikes were prohibited for the duration of the plan, through 1991, and strikers would face fines of 5,000 kronor.

To help curb absenteeism and cheating on sick leave, the government said it would stop paying salaries for the first two weeks of illness, and the burden would shift to the employer. Under current rules, the government pays sick leave from the first day.

Collective bargaining was a pillar of the Swedish welfare system, which has eliminated poverty and guaranteed health and schooling for everyone. The Swedish mix of socialism and capitalism became a model for the industrial welfare state.

Opposition members accused the government of imposing economic martial law and a communist-style planned economy, at a time when such systems were being ditched in Eastern Europe.

"If parliament rejects our demands, the government can not stay on," Carlsson told a news conference. "We will not administer an economy which is falling apart." A vote was expected next

week.

The package outlined in parliament by Finance Minister Kjell-Olof Feldt proposed a two-year freeze on wages, prices, local taxes, rents and stock dividends.

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"To make the wage freeze work, it must be combined with a strike freeze," Carlsson said. "If the Riksdag (parliament) takes the package to pieces, the package is meaningless."

The move would pre-empt a strike by 11,000 municipal employees called for next Wednesday which would indefinitely halt public transportation, public health services and day-care centers.

Conservatives and liberals indicated they would go along with a tax freeze, while the communists would support the freeze on prices, rents and stock earnings.

tres in Sweden's major cities.

Banks have been shut for 11 days by a lockout of 62,000 bank employees following a deadlock in wage negotiations and workers' sanctions.

The bank conflict has left shopkeepers strapped for cash, has virtually silenced the stock market and has meant liquidity problems for some companies which may be unable to pay bills and salaries.

The Social Democrats, who govern with a minority, hoped to push the plan through parliament by next Tuesday, but will need to muster support from at least one opposition party on each of its various proposals.

As recently as several weeks ago, officials at the public works ministry insisted they did not intend to raise public service rates a third time, and hinted rates might even be lowered.

Last weekend, Minister Roberto Dromi said electric rates might go up by 60 to 70 per cent, "or maybe a little more."

Argentines whose wages have not kept pace with inflation or the austral's devaluation reacted with resignation.

"There are so many things I can't do now that I could just two years ago," said Adriana, a travel agent. "I used to go to Villa Gesell (a beach resort town) nearly every weekend. Now I may go twice all summer.... Owning a car is unthinkable."

tion accelerates, the austral devalues and public revenues erode.

The cost of living rose by 40 per cent in December and 79 per cent in January. It is projected to rise by at least 70 per cent this month.

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Shaber said that, while unit sales were good during the holiday season, profits for many retailers were off because of the discounts they had to offer to lure purchasers.

Auto loans rose a meager 1.1 per cent to \$259 million at an annual rate, down from 1.9 per cent in November. Auto loans posted a 4.1 per cent increase in October.

Wave of price rises continues in Argentina

BUENOS AIRES (AP) — Rates for telephones and electricity more than doubled Thursday, and water rates jumped nearly that much, as the government tried again to match the price of public services with their cost.

Last week, the prices of buses, subways, gas, trains, domestic air flights and other services by state-run companies increased drastically last week for the third time since President Carlos Menem took office in July amid hyperinflation and recession.

The ministry of public works announced that electric rates would rise by 133.5 per cent, effective immediately. The cost of telephone calls went up by an average of 112 per cent. Water, for which only commercial users pay, jumped 85 per cent.

Costs were linked with usage.

For example, electricity usage up to 120 kilowatts every two months rose to 5,000 australas (\$1.66).

Holiday Inns have 1,589 hotels and 318,012 rooms in 52 countries around the world.

"We've been moving toward this global situation for a few years," said Hamish Swan, vice president of Bass' hotel division.

Swan said the Atlanta headquarters will include a relatively small staff including Bryan Langton, the chairman of the Bass hotels and restaurants division who will become chairman and chief executive officer of Holiday Inns Inc.

But consumer debt rose in both months to its highest level since last February when it increased \$3.38 billion. Consumer credit includes all consumer loans except mortgages.

While credit was up six per cent for the year, it still was a modest increase, said Sandra Shaber, an economist with the Futures Group here. Debt rose 8.5 per cent in 1988 and 7.5 per cent in 1987.

"Nevertheless, it shows that consumer spending continues to

grow modestly," she said. "It's not collapsing" despite the sluggish economy.

The category of debt that includes credit cards jumped 24.5 per cent in the month that included the bulk of holiday shopping. The hike was 17.5 per cent in November, the last week of which has included holiday shopping in recent years.

Total credit card debt outstanding rose \$4.06 billion at an annual rate in December, com-

Americans hike consumer debt by 6%

WASHINGTON (AP) — Americans took out \$4.91 billion more in consumer credit than they repaid in December, pushing total consumer debt up six per cent for the year, the Federal Reserve (Fed) has said.

The Fed said consumer credit in December advanced at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 8.3 per cent, up from November's revised 7.8 per cent increase. The November gain originally had been reported to be 7.2 per cent.

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Namibians approve constitution, prepare for independence in March

WINDHOEK, Namibia (Agencies) — The constituent assembly Friday unanimously adopted a democratic, Western-style constitution in preparation for Namibia's independence from South Africa on March 21.

The constitution guarantees fundamental individual rights and limits a president to two five-year terms, a rarity in a continent where leaders traditionally serve for life.

Its unanimous adoption represents a remarkable spirit of reconciliation among assembly members who were on opposite sides during a 23-year guerrilla war for independence.

The 72-member assembly approved the constitution in a session held on the front steps of the Tintenpalast, the legislative building on a hilltop in Windhoek.

"Today the masses of our people have a constitution which embodies their aspirations to be masters of their own destiny," said Sam Nujoma, who is expected to be the first president and is leader of the dominant South-West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO).

Namibia was formerly called South West Africa.

A four-metre-by-six-metre print of the constitution's preamble served as a backdrop for the session, which also was attended by Louis Pienaar, the South African administrator of the territory, and Martti Ahtisaari, head of the United Nations contingent monitoring the independence process.

South Africa has ruled Namibia since 1915, but agreed to grant independence under a regional peace treaty also signed by Angola and Cuba. More than 6,000 U.N. civilian and military personnel have been monitoring the process since last April.

SWAPO, which began a bush war against South African rule in 1966, won 41 assembly seats in last November's assembly elections and will form the first government.

Despite a hard-fought campaign and sharp ideological differences, the seven parties represented in the assembly quickly reached agreement on the constitution after beginning work in November.

The constitution has a declaration of fundamental rights, including freedom of movement, speech, and free press. It also envisions a multiparty democracy, regular elections, an independent judiciary and an executive president.

In another development, Nujoma named a white businessman, Gert Hanekom, to serve as minister of agriculture.

Most of the other posts already had been filled. Nujoma has named whites, businessmen, and opposition party members to his cabinet in a bid to reconcile Namibia after the lengthy war and to ease fears of the 75,000 whites,

WORLD NEWS IN BBRIEF

Mitterrand to visit Pakistan, Bangladesh

PARIS (AP) — President Francois Mitterrand will make official visits to Pakistan and Bangladesh later this month, the presidential palace announced Friday. Mitterrand will be in Pakistan Feb. 19-21, and Bangladesh Feb. 22-24, the announcement said.

China, Soviets discuss border troops

PEKING (AP) — China and the Soviet Union began a second round of talks Friday aimed at reducing troop levels along their 7,000-kilometre common border. The Soviet embassy said the talks on cutting military forces and armaments along the border will continue until Feb. 22. An embassy official said the Soviet delegation is led by G.V. Kireev, chief of the Foreign Ministry Department for Socialist Countries in Asia, and consists of six diplomats and six military experts. The two sides agreed to open talks on troop levels along the sometimes-hostile frontier when Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev visited Peking in May.

Gorbachev said the frontier should be turned into a "border of peace" and pledged to withdraw 12 divisions, or 120,000 soldiers, from the border by end of 1990. The Soviet Union is believed to have some 600,000 troops along the Chinese border. China, armed with less-sophisticated equipment, has an estimated 1 million troops there.

Albania rejects E. European reforms

TIRANA, Albania (AP) — A leading government official of Europe's most stubborn bastion of Stalinism said Thursday that Albania welcomes the superpowers' reduced role in Europe but it will remain unaffected by Soviet Bloc democratisation. "We are continuing along our own road, which has been very different from that of the Eastern Bloc countries," Deputy Foreign Minister Socrat Placa told the Associated Press. It is rare that officials consent to comment spontaneously and on the record to Western reporters in Albania. Albania broke with the Soviet Union in 1961 over Moscow's policy of de-Stalinisation and with China in 1978 because of Peking's perceived deviation from Marxist-Leninist tenets. Placa said that Albania followed with "intense interest" current European developments and welcomed any reductions of U.S.-led NATO and Soviet-led Warsaw Pact forces from the continent. The two sides are making progress at talks in Vienna on cutting the blocs' conventional troop strengths. Although participating in few international forums and restricting entry by foreigners, Albania has consistently rejected suggestions it is isolationist.

Ryzhkov starts Asian visit Sunday

BANGKOK — A visit by Soviet Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov to Asian countries starting Sunday is part of an effort by Moscow to dispel its lingering image in the region as a malevolent bear, diplomats and academics say. Ryzhkov, the first Soviet premier to visit non-Communist countries in the region, will tour Thailand, Australia and Singapore in his week-long trip. "This is a big day for Moscow. Its their chance to convert a new and so far sceptical audience to their image as peacemaker," a European diplomat said. Moscow's claim to have reduced its forces in Vietnam and its upbeat initiatives to end the war in Cambodia have helped remove some of the obstacles to a new role for the Soviet Union in this vast basin, diplomats and Thai officials said. Initiatives pushed by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev since July, 1986, to enhance Moscow's Pacific role have met a lukewarm response in the region, mainly because of doubts about Soviet intentions in Indochina and tensions with Asian giants China and Japan, they said. Topping the list of issues for Ryzhkov's delegation will be the conflict in Cambodia, Soviet Ambassador to Thailand Anatoli Volkov said Friday. "The issues of the Cambodian settlement will be given great attention... the reason is both Thailand and Australia are playing a significant role in the problem," he told reporters.

Burmese troops seize rebel base

RANGOON, Burma (AP) — Burmese troops have overrun Three Pagoda Pass, the stronghold of an ethnic minority rebel group and a major smuggling centre along the Thai-Cambodian border, a military spokesman said Friday. Seizure of the border town followed 10 days of fighting. Burmese Col. Than Tun told reporters. He said 16 government soldiers were killed and 42 others wounded in five major clashes leading to the capture Thursday. Twenty rebel bodies were counted, he added. Than Tun said mopping-up operations were continuing in the area, 270 kilometres southeast of Rangoon and 280 kilometres northwest of Bangkok, the Thai capital. Rebels of the New Mon State Party and the Karen National Union were preparing to celebrate their national days when they lost the strategic site. Foreign reporters in Bangkok had been invited for the festivities and for a news conference at Three Pagoda Pass this weekend.

France opposes neutrality of united Germany

PARIS (AP) — Foreign Minister Roland Dumas said in an interview published Friday that France does not oppose the reunification of Germany but is against a neutral Germany, which he said would lead to European instability.

"France has recalled that the reunification of the German people is a right," the conservative Paris newspaper *Le Figaro* quoted Dumas as saying. "It is not going back on that."

The concern of the French government, he said, is the future. To prepare for it, all the problems posed by the present changes in the East must be examined, "notably those involving European security."

"France will not discuss either the principle of reunification nor the modalities of this reunification," the foreign minister said. "This debate is a matter for the Germans themselves."

"In the framework of the old order that is coming apart before us, France has its responsibilities in Germany, the same as those of the other three allied powers. This responsibility will be exercised so that the reunification is carried out with the stability and trust of Germany's neighbours."

Asked if France feared the reunification of Germany, a country that has invaded France three times in the past 120 years, Dumas quoted President Francois Mitterrand, who said last year: "France is not afraid of German reunification."

Neutrality is another matter, he said.

"Because that poses the problem of security. French security goes beyond its borders. And it is always in the interest of our country to surround itself with solid allies. A neutral Germany would be the heart of an unstable Europe."

Asked if a new, even more economically powerful Germany on the French border and in the European Community would not change the nature of Franco-German friendship, Dumas said the solid relations built in the 45 years since the war would not be thrown out of the window because of a new historical development.

"Everything is not going to be rosy for a reunified Germany either," he said.

Asked about the importance of the American military presence in Europe, Dumas welcomed U.S. troop reductions, but said U.S. military presence in Europe remained desirable.

"No matter what the level of disarmament, the Soviet Union will remain a great military power in Europe," the foreign minister said.

The Karachi-based MQM, which claims to speak for Muslim immigrants from India, called the general strike to protest against what it called repressive policies by Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's government, which denies the charge.

16 more killed in Karachi violence

KARACHI (R) — Sixteen more people were killed in sporadic ethnic violence overnight in Karachi, bringing to 64 the death toll in Pakistan's biggest city since Wednesday, police and doctors said Friday.

An eight-year-old girl shot by gunmen in north Karachi was among the dead, police said Friday.

More than 40 people were killed Wednesday in gunbattles between security forces and anti-government protesters during a strike called by the powerful Mohajir National Movement (MQM).

The Karachi-based MQM, which claims to speak for Muslim immigrants from India, called the general strike to protest against what it called repressive policies by Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's government, which denies the charge.

China stands alone in rejecting Moscow's reforms

LONDON (Agencies) — China has stood alone in rejecting a landmark decision by the Soviet Union's Communist Party to end its monopoly on power and usher in a multi-party system.

Chinese Communist Party leader Jiang Zemin told a visiting former U.S. congressman in Peking that China was different from the Soviet Union and would not follow the radical political reforms championed by Kremlin chief Mikhail Gorbachev.

"He (Jiang) said that China was not influenced by political changes in the Soviet Union. He remarked that China's Communist Party didn't come to power because of the Soviet Red Army," a U.S. official who attended the meeting said Thursday.

Jiang spoke Wednesday as Gorbachev, despite fierce opposition from the old guard, won overwhelming support from the Communist Party's Central Committee to rewrite article six of the Soviet constitution guaranteeing its monopoly on power.

Western leaders and newspapers applauded Gorbachev's courage to push his reforms through the conservative-dominated Central Committee, but said the road ahead was uncertain.

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher hailed the move as "a great decision" but said a lot of work remained to be done. Neil Kinnock, head of the British opposition Labour Party, added "now he (Gorbachev) should get unstinting help in overcoming the huge economic problems of the Soviet Union."

U.S. President George Bush, speaking before the end of the Communist Party meeting in Moscow, appeared to shy away from assessing the implications of its decisions.

"I am not here to anoint or try

Japan voices concern over North Korean nuclear facility

TOKYO (R) — Japan on Friday expressed serious concern at a scientist's report that North Korea seems to be expanding a nuclear facility that could enable it to build nuclear weapons.

Professor Toshihumi Sakata of Tokyo's Tokai University said computer analysis of satellite pictures taken more than three years apart showed the North Koreans had put up a large new building at the facility north of Pyongyang and constructed access roads.

"Our findings are probably the first to confirm Western intelligence reports about North Korea's progress in building a nuclear reactor," Sakata told Reuters.

"Once the plant is running, they'll be able to extract plutonium and make nuclear weapons," he said.

The scientist said the London-based Jane's Defence Weekly last year reported that this could happen within the next five years.

After reports of Sakata's findings appeared in Japanese newspapers Friday, a government spokesman was asked at a regular news conference whether Japan had a threat in the North Korean facility, located in the region of

Yongbyong, about 90

kilometres north of Pyongyang.

"We are very concerned," said the spokesman, deputy chief cabinet secretary Nobuo Ishihara. "But at the present stage we have no confirmed information."

"It is impossible to determine whether the facility is for military purposes or peaceful purposes."

Sakata, who heads the private Tokai University Research and Information Centre, said he had not informed the government before making his findings public.

"I am under no obligation to report my findings to the government," he said.

"The reporters who covered my group's findings informed the Foreign Ministry and other offices, I presume. I've heard nothing from government officials regarding this matter."

Sakata said his team had compared two sets of photographs of the Yongbyong site taken by the French spot satellite in 1986 and in 1989.

"The June 1986 photo shows construction was taking place. In the photo taken in September 1989, we were able to see that the installation area had increased substantially in size, including

roads and a large building."

Japanese newspapers said Communist North Korea, with Soviet help, had constructed a nuclear plant for research purposes in the Nyongbyong area in the mid-1970s. The original plant's capacity was estimated at 2,000-4,000 kilowatts.

Nearly 37 years after an armistice ending a bitter war between the two Koreas, Pyongyang has still not signed a peace treaty either with the anti-Communist South or with the United States, which led a U.N. international force backing Seoul.

Tension remains high along the North-South truce line.

"North Korea is one of those countries and areas which (causes us) very much concern from the point of view of the treaty on non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and facilities," a Japanese Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

Spokesman Taizo Watanabe said North Korea, as a member of the International Atomic Energy Agency, signed the nuclear non-proliferation treaty in 1985 but had so far refused to guarantee international inspection of its facilities.

Column C

Anthony Quinn undergoes surgery

NEW YORK (R) — Academy award-winning actor Anthony Quinn successfully underwent a three-hour heart bypass operation Thursday and could be out of the hospital in a week, a spokeswoman said.

Quinn, 74, had a strong heart and is in good health and should have an uneventful recovery, said spokeswoman Katherine Benvin. Quinn entered New York's Mount Sinai Hospital Wednesday night after suffering chest pains for three months. The actor, who was born in Mexico and came to the United States when he was one year old, won Academy Awards for his role as a Mexican revolutionary in *Viva Zapata!* and for portraying the French painter Paul Gauguin in *Lust for Life*. He played an Arab in *Lawrence of Arabia*, an Italian strongman in *La Strada* and Greeks in the *Gods of Navarone* and *Zorba the Greek*.

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the International Atomic Energy Agency, signed the nuclear non-proliferation treaty in 1985 but had so far refused to guarantee international inspection of its facilities.

Nearby

Stones set to conquer Japan

TOKYO (R) — Accompanied by six sword-wielding Samurai warriors, the Rolling Stones met 200 clapping, whistling reporters and photographers Friday ahead of the group's first concerts in Japan. "We're so happy to see so many people come to welcome us," lead singer Mick Jagger said.

He called the new alliance a political coup d'état against people yearning for full democracy and described Kim Young-Sam and Kim Jong-Pil, a former prime minister, as traitors.

He said the move was a trend toward one-party dictatorship and was designed to stop his group winning provincial elections, the first for 30 years, later this year and general elections in 1992.

In an apparent bid to placate the hardcore opposition politician, Roh said he will drop charges brought against him over a colleague's illegal visit to North Korea.

Kim Dae-Jung was charged under tough anti-Communist laws for not revealing a secret trip to Pyongyang by party member Suh Kyung-Won for talks with President Kim Il-Sung.

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